

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY.

Monday-Sept. 16th, 1918.

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was held on the above date at 4 o'clock at 13 Central Avenue. Those present were: Mr. Spearman, Mrs. Eugene Gregory, A. W. MacDougall, Miss Helen E. Pendleton, Mr. R. W. Stewart, Mrs. Little, Mr. Powell, Mr. C. M. Brown, Mr. Wm. Ashby, Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones of New York, Mr. Vandervall, Mr. Bannwart, Miss Stratton, Rev. J.E.A. Johns and the chairman, Dr. Lusk who presided.

The minutes of the meeting called September 3d, were read by Mr. Ashby and some slight corrections made by the chairman approved. The treasurer's report was accepted and ordered filed with the minutes. (See list) Miss Pendleton called to the attention of the Committee that on September 1st, 1917 we had just about the same amount on hand and after a successful year, finds us with an almost equal balance. It was moved, seconded and approved that the Secretary's report of the summers work be deferred until the Managers meeting in October and that the Committee take up the question of buying the property for the Neighborhood House, which is just now most important.

Mr. Stewart reported as a member of the Committee that Dr. Alexander is ill and unable to be present and asks him in a letter to the Executive Board to act as his proxy for the transaction of all business which may come before the Board on Monday Sept. 16th. Mr. Stewart said that as is well known he and the Committee had made a call on Dr. Green, who now refuses to sell for less than \$14,000. They then turned their attention to the well built apartment house at 212 Bank Street which he considers the best that the Committee has yet found. This can be bought for \$14,000. There is only one criticism that he has to make and it is that it has one semi-dark room.

Mr. Ashby presented the Committee with a typewritten list of five pieces of property among them Dr. Green's which should be eliminated from the discussion because of its high price and condition. Also the property at 249 Mulberry Street, belonging to the Children's Aid Society which is cheaper than any of the others offered, but which on account of its situation would not be useful for the intended purpose of the Neighborhood House. The Committee therefore bent its attention to the description of and the discussion about the property at 212 Bank Street. Mr. Stewart stated that the situation of this

house as it was next to the corner would make it valuable property to own; that as it is near the juncture of street car lines that will also enhance its accessibility and value. Mr. MacDougall asked Mr. Ashby exactly the purpose the house was to be used for. He said that the second and third floors could be used for the working girls homes as has been proposed all along and which is so vitally necessary. The basement can be used as an office for the League and the first floor with some partitions easily taken away can be used as an assembly room for the League.

Mr. Vandervall thought that property should be bought on a side street as it would not be so expensive and felt sure that such property could be found. Mr. Stewart and Miss Pendleton said that they felt the neighborhood had been canvassed pretty thoroughly for nearly two years to find something of the nature that Mr. Vandervall described, but so far nothing has been available.

Mr. MacDougall said he had gone over the property and thought it was not only good for the purposes intended, but seemed to be a good investment as it could probably be sold to advantage if the League found it necessary and advisable to get rid of it at any time. Mr. Ashby thought that action should be taken immediately as he too had searched long and vain for some proper place. Dr. Lusk said he disapproved entirely of the building because the girls ought to have an ideal place. He thought the building was too dark and that no building should be built as it is and therefore put his protest in.

Miss Pendleton brought before the Committee the fact that the Fidelity Trust Company owns the first 5% mortgage on this property which in itself shows it is worth while. Their mortgage now is \$7,900 which a purchaser can buy off at his leisure. With taxes at \$270. a year and water rent \$30. this will make the actual expenses on the house about \$685. a year or \$57. a month. Then if one apartment is rented for \$32.50 a month it would go far toward paying the necessary expenses.

It means a great deal now to be able to go into a house immediately without expense, one which has electric light, gas on each floor and plenty of tubs for washing. That would make it possible for the Phillis Wheatley Association to furnish the place comfortably so that the girls could learn what a real home can be. It will also be warmer in this building than any of the others suggested which is important and should be considered this winter. Dr. Lusk was obliged to leave at this juncture and Miss Pendleton also left the meeting asking Mr. Ashby to act as Secretary.

Mr. Ashby reports the following procedure. Since it is important that this proposition shall not be closed without the full consent of the Board and especially Dr. Lusk the Chairman, it was decided to register the opinions of those who were for the purchase and those who were not and to meet on Monday the 23rd. Meanwhile those who have not seen the building will go over it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until Monday the 23rd.

*Helen B. Pendleton*  
Secretary.

For purchase of Bldg.

Miss Helen B. Pendleton  
A. W. MacDougall  
Mr. William Ashby

Against

Dr. Davis Lusk.  
Mr. Vandervall.